

**REMARKS**

Entry of this Amendment in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.116 is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated May 4, 2004. Appreciation is expressed to the Examiner for the allowance of a number of claims and the indication of allowable subject matter in further claims.

By the present Amendment, rejected claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled, independent claim 13 has been rewritten to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 19 (claim 19 correspondingly being canceled), the substance of claims 1 and 2 has been written into claim 3, the substance of claim 1 has been rewritten into claims 16, 21, 24 and 33, and the substance of claim 13 has been written into claim 23. By virtue of this, the claims indicated as having allowable subject matter have either been rewritten into independent form or have been incorporated into their respective parent claims, thus placing all of the remaining claims in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment for purposes of placing the application in condition for allowance is respectfully requested.

It is noted that the cancellation of claims 1 and 2 and the further amending of claim 13 is done without the prejudice to the Applicants' right to precede with filing a Continuation application directed to the subject matter of these broader claims.

Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested, notwithstanding the finality of the Office Action. With regard to this, it is noted that the present Amendment simply adopts suggestions of the Examiner for placing claims in condition for allowance. Under the provision of 37 CFR § 1.116, entry of an amendment after final rejection is appropriate, if the purpose of the amendment is to follow the

Examiner's suggestions for obtaining allowance of the claims. Therefore, entry of this Amendment in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Also by the present Amendment, a Substitute Specification is presented, together with a marked copy of the original Specification to indicate where changes have been made. These corrections are for [purposes of correcting minor informalities noted in reviewing the application. The undersigned attorney hereby states that no new matter is presented by this Substitute Specification submitted herewith.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of

Application No.: 09/648,455

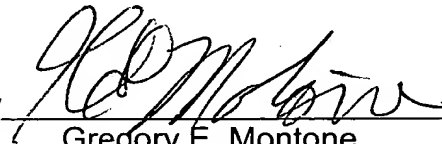
Docket No.: 500.38949X00

this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 500.38949X00), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

By



Gregory E. Montone

Reg. No. 28,141

GEM/dlt

1300 North Seventeenth Street, Suite 1800  
Arlington, Virginia 22209  
Telephone: (703) 312-6600  
Facsimile: (703) 312-6666